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Editorial Board

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# Profiles of Non-Jesuit Presidents at Jesuit Colleges and Universities

## CANISIUS COLLEGE

### John Hurley, JD

John J. Hurley, JD began his appointment as the first lay president of Canisius in July 2010. A 1978 alumnus of Canisius, Hurley previously served as the college's executive vice president and vice president for college relations. For his contributions to the Canisius community, he was the recipient of the 2002 Canisius College Distinguished Alumnus Award. A Buffalo native, Hurley earned his JD from the University of Notre Dame School of Law.



*"I've told our board and campus community that the challenge for Canisius is not how we will fare with a lay president. After all, I am just one person. The real challenge, in light of the declining Jesuit presence on our campus, is how all of the lay people at the college – faculty, administrators and staff – will work to keep our college authentically Jesuit. I am energized by that challenge."*

## GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

### John DeGioia, PhD

Dr. John J. DeGioia has served as the first non-Jesuit president of Georgetown since July 2001. An alumnus of Georgetown, Dr. DeGioia has also served both as a senior administrator and as a faculty member. Highlights of Dr. DeGioia's tenure as president include completion in December 2003 of the largest fund-raising effort in University history; creating more research opportunities for faculty; and enhancing the university's relationships with local, national and international cities.



*"Whether Georgetown's president is Jesuit or lay, our role is to continue reinterpreting and reimagining what it means to be Catholic and Jesuit in order to enliven our tradition and provide a context where all members of our community are able to do their very best work and become their very best selves. This work is not static: we have to keep examining the truth of who we are in the context of our time, and to evolve as tradition demands of us."*

## GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

### Thayne McCulloh, PhD

Dr. Thayne M. McCulloh was named the first lay president of Gonzaga University in July, 2010. Before enrolling as a student at Gonzaga, Dr. McCulloh completed a three-year enlistment as a food service sergeant in the US Army. He earned his PhD and master's degree from Oxford University. Prior to his role as president, Dr. McCulloh served at Gonzaga in several

different roles, including dean of student financial services and interim AVP.

*"The work as lay president is a call to both institutional and apostolic leadership: I serve both as chief executive and director of this Jesuit work. In my daily experience, the significance of the term "collaboration" is truly operative, and in evidence; our effectiveness is measured by how well the mission is lived, as a call shared by us together."*



## LE MOYNE COLLEGE

### Fred Pestello, PhD

Dr. Fred P. Pestello became the 13th president, and first lay leader, of Le Moyne College in July 2008. Prior to his arrival at Le Moyne, Dr. Pestello spent 24 years at the University of Dayton, where served as professor, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, provost and senior vice president for educational affairs. An alumnus of John Carroll, Dr. Pestello earned his PhD from the University of Akron-Kent State University joint doctoral program.

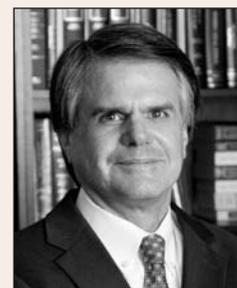


*"As the recipient of a Jesuit education that benefited me tremendously, I am honored to be leading a Jesuit college and humbled by the support I have received. At Le Moyne we have joined together around an explicit commitment to 'fully and energetically express our Catholic and Jesuit mission, identity and character.'"*

## LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

### David Burcham, JD

David W. Burcham, JD was named president of Loyola Marymount University in 2010. Previously, Burcham was executive vice president and provost at LMU. He is a native of Los Angeles and graduated first in his class from Loyola Law School in 1984. After seven years in public and private practice, he was appointed dean of the law school in 2000, before being named provost.

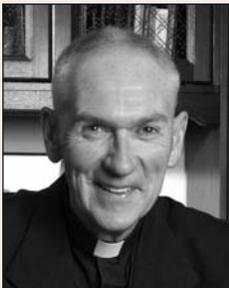


*"I feel a particular responsibility to maintain and strengthen our Catholic mission and identity. But this responsibility doesn't lie in one person or in one office. The Ignatian perspective must permeate all of our planning and decision-making if we are to preserve LMU's academic excellence and commitment to education of the whole person."*

## ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY

### Tom Curran, OSFS

Rev. Thomas B. Curran, OSFS, began his tenure as the 14th president of Rockhurst in June 2006. As the first non-Jesuit president of Rockhurst, he is well grounded in the philosophy of Jesuit higher education, having earned degrees from two Jesuit universities. He previously served as associate vice president for university relations and assistant to the president at Regis University. Before his tenure at Regis, Fr. Curran founded and served as executive director of Nativity Preparatory School, a middle school for low-income boys.



*"Because the Salesian spirituality of my religious order, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, is rooted in the Ignatian spirituality of the Society of Jesus, I consider Rockhurst University home. I also am the proud alumnus of two Jesuit universities, so I can also personally attest to the transformative aspect of a Jesuit education."*

## SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

### John Smithson, MBA (Interim)

John W. Smithson '68, MBA '82 was appointed as interim president of St. Joe's in April, 2011; he began his tenure in this role in May, 2011. Previously, he served at the university as senior vice president, and as a University Trustee from 1999-2007 and Board Chair from 2003-2007. Prior to working at the university, Smithson was senior vice president at Towers Watson Reinsurance and CEO and President of PMA Capital Corporation.



*"As a lay (interim) President, I value the experience I bring as a former senior trustee during my eight years in that capacity. As Board Chair, I frequently reminded the trustees that their primary responsibility was, and is, to preserve and advance the Jesuit and Catholic Mission of Saint Joseph's. For lay trustees, this is an extremely high priority and, in some ways, my own lay status can have the effect of reinforcing the importance of advancing the Mission. In addition, my close relationship with the Rector of the Saint Joseph's Jesuit community and my frequent collaboration with our Jesuit leadership are invaluable in helping me stay constantly focused on the critical partnership between the Society of Jesus and our lay leadership."*

## SAINT PETER'S COLLEGE

### Eugene Cornacchia, PhD

Eugene J. Cornacchia, PhD was named the first lay president of Saint Peter's in May 2007. Under his leadership, the school has expanded its undergraduate and graduate programs, established its first doctorate program and established a School of Education and a School of Nursing. Prior to being named president, Dr. Cornacchia served as the



College's academic dean, provost and vice president for academic affairs. He received three degrees (including his PhD) from Fordham.

*"As a product of Jesuit education, I deeply share the values of my predecessors, all of whom were Jesuits. The mission and ideals of the Society of Jesus have long been a part of my life. As a lay president, I believe I have both an obligation and an opportunity to be even more overt about our Jesuit mission. It's vital that Saint Peter's lay community understand and embody the mission of the Jesuits. We try to achieve this through various programs, lecture series, service activities, liturgies, and opportunities to experience the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius."*

## UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

### Antoine Garibaldi, PhD

Antoine M. Garibaldi, Ph.D., assumed his position as president of UDM in June 2011. Previously, Dr. Garibaldi served as president of Gannon University from 2001-2010. Prior to joining Gannon University, Dr. Garibaldi was a Senior Fellow at the Educational Testing Service in 2000-01; he served as first provost and chief academic officer at Howard University and a tenured Professor in the School of Education between 1996 and 2000; and, between 1982 and 1996, he served successively as chairman of the education department, dean of arts and sciences, and vice president for academic affairs at Xavier University of Louisiana.



*"As a non-Jesuit president, I believe that my experiences as a lifelong Catholic, Josephite seminarian for nearly nine years, and president, vice president for academic affairs, dean, and chairman and professor at two Catholic universities for twenty-five years will help me to build upon University of Detroit Mercy's rich Jesuit Mission and charisms in education, social justice and service."*

## WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY

### Richard Beyer

Richard Allen Beyer began his appointment as the ninth president of Wheeling in January 2011. Prior to that, he served as a corporate vice president and member of the executive committee at Trimble Navigation Ltd. Beyer first became affiliated with higher education in 1994 at his alma mater Olivet College, where he served on the board of trustees and became chairman in 2000. He currently serves on the board of trustees at American University and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB).



*"I feel a deep sense of responsibility to foster the Jesuit mission and continue the work that has helped build the institution's academic reputation. Always at my consciousness is the sense of stewardship to the university and a real respect for Wheeling Jesuit University's history. It is most important to grow and progress in a manner that will make the Jesuits proud."*